

CHAPTER 9

ARMED FORCES COURIER SERVICE (ARFCOS) AND COMMAND MESSENGERS

9000. Purpose. This chapter sets forth responsibilities and procedures for the elimination of all potential means for movement of contraband through courier service channels.

9001. General. The importation into the CTUS by an ARFCOS courier or command messenger of any property not owned or controlled by the United States is strictly prohibited. Appropriate action will be taken when any officer, enlisted member, or employee of the US Government violates this prohibition. Each such violation will be referred to the cognizant official for consideration under applicable Federal criminal statutes, including Uniform Code of Military Justice.

9002. Explanation of terms. *a. ARFCOS courier.* An officer or enlisted member in the grade of E-7 and above of the US Armed Forces, assigned to perform ARFCOS duties and identified by having in his possession an ARFCOS Form 9 (Identification Card).

b. ARFCOS designated courier. An officer or enlisted member in the grade of E-7 or above of the US Armed Forces, or a Department of State diplomatic courier, selected by an ARFCOS courier as custodian to safeguard ARFCOS material until delivered to and receipted for by the addressee or another ARFCOS courier.

c. Command messenger. A command messenger is an individual designated in writing by the appropriate authority to accept material from, or deliver material to, an ARFCOS courier or station. Each messenger is identified by having in his/her possession the written authorization.

d. Diplomatic courier. An individual ap-

pointed and assigned by the Department of State, bearing a diplomatic passport identifying him/her as a diplomatic courier and a courier letter, signed by the Secretary of State or the Under Secretary of State.

9003. Scope of operations. *a.* The ARFCOS operates throughout the world for DOD and its agencies in the field, and other US governmental agencies whose material meets the criteria of paragraphs 8a and b, AR 66-6/OPNAVINST 5130.1/AFR 182-14, and where Status of Forces Agreements ensure that such material will be admitted free of duty and without examination by customs officials.

b. ARFCOS and the Diplomatic Pouch and Courier Division of the Department of State maintain close liaison in order to eliminate duplication of service and provide delivery of ARFCOS courier material into those areas where ARFCOS cannot provide service.

c. The command messenger operates within or between commands and may accept or deliver ARFCOS material from or to the ARFCOS courier or Armed Forces courier stations (ARFCOSTA). He/she is prohibited from importing into the CTUS any ARFCO qualified material, referred to in a above.

9004. Responsibilities. Each DOD activity entering materials into ARFCOS and/or using a command messenger service will establish controls to ensure that these services are used solely for the transmission of qualified material and that contraband is not entered into the courier service systems.

9005. Reporting procedures. *a.* If material is entered into ARFCOS which is suspected or

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known to be unqualified or unauthorized, a letter report will be submitted to the Director, Armed Forces Courier Service, Forrestal Building, Washington, DC 20314, furnishing all particulars, including ARFCOS control number, originator, and addressee.

b. Reports on material which is entered into the command messenger system and is suspected or known to be contraband, will be forwarded to the commander who designated the messenger.

9006. Customs inspection/examination. a. Upon request by customs officials for an exami-

nation of a suspected ARFCOS or command messenger pouch, the material may be impounded. In the case of ARFCOS material, qualified and properly cleared ARFCOS personnel, upon direction by the Director, Armed Forces Courier Service, will determine the authenticity of the material. When the impounded suspect pouch is command messenger material, properly qualified and cleared Service personnel will determine authenticity.

b. The personal property of both ARFCOS and command messengers and the individuals themselves are subject to customs inspection and/or examination as outlined in chapter 4.